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January 29, 2010

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CALHOUN COUNTY'S OLD DAVISTOWN CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Old Davistown in Oxford to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now eight cemeteries in Calhoun County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 320 cemeteries statewide.

John F. Davis arrived in Benton (now Calhoun) County before 1844 and founded Davisville (now Davistown). It was a mining settlement with abundant supplies of coal, iron, and copper. It is believed that Old Davistown Cemetery began as a family cemetery. Many of John Davis' children and their descendents are buried here. Most of the people buried in the cemetery are related by blood or marriage. The oldest marked grave is for Elijah Teague who was born in 1767 and died in 1843. A group of descendants gather here each year and hold a memorial service.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.***

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